

CONGRATULATING DELANO AND
THE MATH AND SCIENCE ACAD-
EMY IN WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two schools from my state of Minnesota. Both Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury have been recently recognized as "Blue Ribbon Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Program honors public and private middle, junior and senior high schools that demonstrate academic superiority, especially with minority populations.

This is a great honor to the teachers, faculty and administration of these schools. And, in particular, Delano's Principal Matthew Schoen and Woodbury's Director Paul Simone, should be exceedingly proud of their efforts. Their dedication to foster a positive learning environment encourages families and students across the nation. Through the Blue Ribbon School program, other educators have a set of "Best Practices" in classroom tactics, school programming choices and administrative strategies like none other.

These schools are shining stars in America's education system. It is my honor to recognize two of these schools, Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury, before this Congress today. I encourage every school in America to look at these Blue Ribbon winners not only as a resource but also a reminder of what our schools can be.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 111TH
CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF VET-
ERANS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant bipartisan accomplishments made by the 111th Congress for our veterans and their families. Our Armed Forces sacrifice a tremendous amount for this country. In light of such commitment and dedication to our nation, the House has worked feverishly to provide the resources and support America's warriors need before, during, and after their service.

In this Congress, one of the House Armed Services Committee's finest achievements was unanimously passing H.R. 2647, the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Designed to restore our military's readiness and improve the quality of life of our service members and their families, the bill would provide a 3.4 percent pay raise for service members, strengthen efforts to expand mental health care for troops, and improve military housing. On June 25, 2009, H.R. 2647 passed the full House by an overwhelming margin.

Additionally, the House has worked to ensure the health of our veterans and their families. Among other initiatives, we have approved legislation to expand and improve VA

health care services for the 1.8 million women who have bravely served our country, voted to increase veterans' disability payments to reflect cost-of-living increases, and approved a bill I introduced that would expand military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees with less than 20 years of service. In June, the House approved the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, authorizing Congress to approve veterans' medical care funding one year in advance to better anticipate and meet the demand for veterans' health care services. And, in February, the House approved my resolution designating 2009 as the "Year of the Military Family" to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of over two million military families.

The dedication of our men and women in uniform makes our nation strong and keeps us free; we cannot forget the debt we owe to those who serve so nobly. While there certainly remains work to be done, I am proud of the achievements this Congress has made on behalf of our nation's warriors and their families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks one of my municipalities received as part of Bill 3288, the "Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: TCSP—Transportation & Community & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The State of Georgia, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue P.O. Box 889 Savannah, GA 31402

Description of Request: CG funding of \$33,725,000 is necessary to begin construction of the SHEP. While the Record of Decision will not be signed until mid-2010, these funds can be used for final pre-construction monitoring and engineering design of the channel and mitigation components for the project.

Additionally, these funds will be needed immediately after project approval for negotiation of the Project Partnership Agreement. Construction contracts cannot be awarded prior to the completion of this agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING EDGAR
HAGOPIAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO
HIS COMMUNITY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Edgar Hagopian, a compassionate humanitarian and public advocate who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Edgar grew up in metro Detroit. As a teen in the 1950s, he began working for his father, Haroutun Hagopian, who ran a cleaning business. Edgar worked hard under the leadership example set by his father. Buoyed by the devotion and support of his wife Sarah, the Hagopian Family of Companies grew and earned a reputation for excellence in business. Presently, Edgar serves as Chairman of the Hagopian Family of Companies, which encompasses Hagopian & Sons, Incorporated, Hagopian World of Rugs, Hagopian Cleaning Services, Incorporated, Hagopian Fire & Flood Services and The Ghiordes Knot. The Hagopian name has long been associated with carpet cleaning and fine Oriental Rugs and their cleaning slogan, "expect the best, expect the purple truck", can be heard over local airwaves daily.

As 2009 marks the distinct recognition of 70 years in business, it is with great gratitude and appreciation that I recognize Edgar Hagopian. His leadership stands as a fine illustration of Southeast Michigan ingenuity and innovation. He has assertively fostered economic growth, created jobs and inspired hope in a state ravaged by mass unemployment. Additionally, Edgar has been involved in numerous charitable organizations and his generosity is well known throughout the community.

Edgar and his wife Sarah have worked to promote Armenian culture and unite the metro Detroit Armenian community. They have worked to help build a stronger Armenia by bridging the cultural gap and bringing people of all ethnicities and traditions together. Mr. Hagopian has spearheaded both large and small projects, each with qualitative impacts felt across all spectrums of life. Moreover, he has long worked tirelessly to better inform people of the Armenian Genocide on both a local and national level. These efforts resulted in the passing of Michigan Public Act 558 (2002) "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Days" signed into law by Governor John Engler.

Madam Speaker, Edgar Hagopian is a spirited political activist, caring benefactor, compassionate citizen and cultural icon whose generosity has shaped the lives of countless people in our community. We are all indebted to the countless sacrifices and contributions he has made to strengthen the social fabric of our society. He personifies a legacy of distinction. Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hagopian and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY
OF KINGSPORT ON THE HIGHER
EDUCATION INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Higher Education Initiative by the City of Kingsport. The Higher Education Initiative worked to revitalize the economy in Kingsport by improving the overall education level of its labor force.

Madam Speaker, I am not the only one praising Kingsport for their initiative. Kingsport has been awarded the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards by The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University for its higher education initiatives.

To win this prestigious award, Kingsport had to compete against 600 other federal, state and local governments.

The Kingsport Center for Higher Education consists of five institutions: Carson-Newman College, King College, Lincoln Memorial University, Northeast State Community College, and the University of Tennessee. This unique partnership allows the Center to offer courses and programs ranging from associate to doctoral degrees.

Just recently, I moved my district congressional office to this impressive facility. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I support this great initiative and I thank Kingsport for their dedication to their local economy and their commitment to education.

Since Kingsport has taken the initiative towards promoting higher education nearly a decade ago, there has been a 23 percent increase in high school graduates, a 27.5 percent increase in those with Associate Degrees and a 19.2 increase in those with Bachelor's Degrees.

Education adds value and improves quality of life. I commend the City of Kingsport for their hard work and dedication that has truly made the city a better place.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PELAIA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Thomas Pelaia, who will be recognized by the John I. Crecco Foundation with its Public Safety Award on September 11, 2009 for his many years of dedicated service to keeping our communities safe.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, because he is the embodiment of the patriotism and community service that make our nation great.

Thomas Pelaia joined the Bloomfield Fire Department on May 13, 1980. After serving as a line fireman, he was transferred to the Fire

Prevention Bureau where he served as an Inspector, Senior Inspector, and now as the Fire Official who is the Chief Inspector of Fire Prevention. During his tenure there, he has worked to make Bloomfield one of the safest communities in the nation. In 1999, he partnered with the Bloomfield Board of Education in having fire sprinklers installed in major school construction projects. To date, three of the eight elementary schools and the high school are fully equipped with sprinkler systems; many of the other schools are partially equipped.

Tom has been the Deputy Essex County Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator since 1994. On January 19, 2000 he organized the mutual aid response to the devastating fire at Seton Hall University. Shortly after the fire, Tom worked closely with Bloomfield College to have sprinklers installed throughout all of the dormitories, even before legislation was passed to mandate them. Due to his efforts in protecting these schools, he was honored as Fire Protection Inspector of the Year in May 2001 by the New Jersey State Fire Prevention and Protection Association and the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs. Also as Fire Coordinator, he organized Essex County's response to New York City after the tragic events of eight years ago when the September 11, 2001 attacks took place. He organized the response of 25 Essex County fire companies to protect the boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn on September 12 and 13, 2001.

Tom was an integral part of the accreditation team that worked to have the Bloomfield Fire Department receive International Accreditation. It is the first in New Jersey and the first career Fire Department in the northeast to receive this prestigious recognition which was awarded in March of this year. Tom has been an active member of many organizations throughout the years. He has served as Bloomfield FMBA Local 19 Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Executive Delegate for over 15 years. He also served the New Jersey State FMBA as a District Vice President and Legislative Committeeman.

Tom currently serves as a Fire Advisor to the Bloomfield Volunteer Emergency Squad. He is the Secretary of the Bloomfield Firemen's Relief Association and is the Essex County Legislative Committeeman for the New Jersey State Fireman's Association. As a 35 year member of the Bell and Siren Club, Inc., he is the Chairman of its Essex Committee and the Vice President of the International Convention which will be hosted in New Jersey in 2011. He is also an active member of the Essex County Fire Prevention Association and the Essex County Fire Chief's Association. Tom is also a member of Bloomfield UNICO. He resides in Livingston, New Jersey, with his wife Maria and his niece Danielle.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to highlight the achievements of great Americans like Thomas Pelaia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Thomas's family and friends, everyone at the John I. Crecco Foundation, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Thomas Pelaia to his community.

CONGRATULATING DOLPHIN
HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
GROUP OF THE YEAR

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the outstanding members and citizen leaders who make up the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch.

It is a great honor to recognize the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch and I wish this group continued success.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch took a firm stand in letting the criminals know that the activities that they were involved in were not going to continue in their community. Due to the efforts, participation and teamwork provided by the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch Group, the Dallas Police Department and the City Prosecutor, a 12 percent decrease in crime within the past year was noticed among the following criminal offenses: 5 percent decrease in Business Burglaries, 7 percent decrease in Burglary of Motor Vehicles, 6 percent decrease in Thefts and a 2 percent decrease in Auto Thefts. Officers of the Southeast Patrol Division made a total of forty-seven (47) Arrests and issued seven hundred and eighty-six (786) Citations involving Drugs, Prostitution, Urban Habitation, Alcohol Violations, Code Violations, Auto Thefts, Assaults, Traffic Violations and Outstanding Warrants.

They also have other successful community programs, including City of Hope, Eye on the Community, Treasure of Hope, National Night Out, Community Clean-up, Community Emergency Response Team, and the After School Program.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch is a hard working group that believes in teamwork and accomplishing their goals.

I am pleased to congratulate the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch on their outstanding efforts and share their good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people. They're making Texas a better place to live, work and raise a family.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF
LILLIAN V. GERMAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and indispensable members of the Judiciary Committee staff, Lillian German. For the past 6 years, Lillian has served as a counsel to the Committee, working principally as the Deputy Chief Oversight Counsel during the 110th and 111th Congresses.

A proud native of Houston, Texas, Lillian graduated from the University of North Texas where she was a leader in student government and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University, and, following